

REMARKS

The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action issued on March 16, 2007. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in this Application.

Rejections of Claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office has rejected claims 1 and 3-7 as obvious over U.S. 4,110,450 (Barreau et al.). However, the Office found that claims 2, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While not acquiescing to the propriety of the Office's rejection, Applicants have obviated the obviousness rejection by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 into claim 1. Claim 2 has been cancelled accordingly.

Applicants respectfully submit that since the subject matter of claim 2 has already been found allowable by the Office, the amendment of claim 1 renders moot the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-7.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants believe that the all pending rejections have been overcome, submit that the instant application is in condition of allowance and respectfully request the allowance of the instant application.

If any additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John A. Evans', written over a horizontal line.

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